



Administrative Regulations

Number AR7-2
Issue 1

Subject: Hearing (Induction) Loops in the City's Public Assembly Rooms

I. Purpose

The purpose of this regulation is to establish a uniform policy specific to the installation of permanent hearing (induction) loops in public assembly rooms in both newly constructed capital projects and existing City facilities, thereby exceeding requirements found in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and California Building Codes (CBC) standards.

A hearing loop, also known as an induction loop or T-loop, is an assistive listening system that provides a magnetic signal to the telecoil (T-coil) located in most modern hearing assistive devices. The telecoil receives the sound signal directly from the source, resulting in a clear audio signal with optimal clarity without the background noise that is common with other types of hearing assistance devices. Loop technology uses a universal standard system, all T-coils work with all loop systems. The cost to install a hearing loop is reasonable, and minimal maintenance is required.

Hearing loss is a major public health issue that is the third most common physical condition after arthritis and heart disease. About 20 percent (48 million) of Americans report some degree of hearing loss. Hearing loops provide the ability for hearing-impaired residents to fully participate in public meetings and forums. Furthermore, the system can be used anonymously, without drawing attention to users.

II. Scope

This policy is applicable to all newly constructed capital projects that include public assembly rooms that (1) are a minimum of 500 square feet, and (2) audible communications are integral to a use of the space. The scope also includes public assembly rooms in current City facilities, with an existing amplified-audio system, that are at minimum 500 square feet in size.

Public assembly rooms can also be defined as community rooms, public meeting rooms, and conference rooms. These rooms are typically found in the City's civic center, and the various facilities of the Fire, Police, Library Services Health and Human Services, Parks, Recreation and Marine, and Long Beach Gas and Oil Departments.

This regulation shall be applicable to all City departments and offices directly responsible to the City Manager. However, in the interest of uniformity, effectiveness and completeness, it is requested that elective offices and other independent offices and departments also comply with this procedure.

III. **Amendment**

The City Manager may amend the procedures and content set forth in this regulation as required.

IV. **Policy**

- A. The Hearing (Induction) Loop Policy provides specific criteria that will automatically trigger the installation of permanent induction loops in newly constructed capital projects that include public assembly rooms. This *trigger* will be defined as rooms that are at minimum 500 square feet in size and intended for public use, fixed seating or not.
- B. This policy works under the assumption that amplified-audio will be installed in these rooms.
- C. Additionally, as resources are identified, the City will work to install permanent induction loops in all existing public assembly rooms that are at minimum 500 square feet in size. Rooms that have existing amplified-audio systems will take priority.
- D. An exemption is possible if it is determined that meeting this policy is not feasible, conflicts with other lawful requirements, conflicts with other project requirements, and/or the costs outweigh the benefits. In the event of an exemption, the project plans must provide a comparable alternative assistive listening system. An exemption is also possible if there is a proven need in a public assembly room smaller than 500 square feet on a case-by-case basis. Exemptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis by the Citywide ADA Coordinator.

For more information regarding this regulation, please contact the Citywide ADA/Title VI Coordinator for the City of Long Beach:

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APPROVED:



CITY MANAGER

11-10-17
DATE